

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PATUXENT RESEARCH REFUGE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend the Patuxent Research Refuge on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary. Sited on almost 13,000 acres of green space, Patuxent is the largest contiguous block of forest land in the Baltimore-Washington Corridor. Some have referred to it as the "green lungs" of the region.

Established in 1936 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Patuxent is the Nation's only national wildlife refuge created to support wildlife research. Patuxent includes the National Wildlife Visitor's Center which is one of the largest science and environmental education centers operated by the Department of Interior. Many of my constituents appreciate and value the Visitor Center's interactive exhibits which focus on global environmental issues, migratory bird studies, habitats and endangered species. Many visitors also can enjoy the hiking trails, tram tours, seasonal fishing programs, wildlife management demonstration areas and the outdoor education sites for local schools.

In addition to the Visitor's Center, Patuxent is home to the Wildlife Research Center which conducts research on a diverse range of wildlife and conservation issues. The exemplary research by the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center has helped develop important management techniques for conserving and protecting our Nation's wildlife and habitat. Research at the Center has led to efforts to restore the whooping crane population from near extinction to providing the scientific research that ultimately led the ban of the pesticide DDT in 1972. Currently, the Center has over 100 scientific research projects ranging from the impact of rising sea levels to Chesapeake Bay black duck populations to nocturnal bird migrations through the Central Appalachians.

Patuxent continues to be at the forefront of conserving our precious natural resources and maintaining an ecosystem that will continue to be robust and vibrant for generations to come. It provides a place for hikers, fisherman and hunters to enjoy green space in the Baltimore-Washington Corridor. I am proud that the 3rd Congressional District is home to the Patuxent Research Refuge, and hope they can continue to serve as an archetype for future environmental research facilities. I hope my fellow Members will join me in congratulating them on their 75th anniversary.

HONORING TAIWAN ON ITS 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Taiwan, which celebrated its 100th anniversary earlier this month. The events of October 10, 1911, marked the beginning of the Wuchang Uprising, which ultimately resulted in the collapse of the Qing Dynasty in China and the creation of Taiwan.

Under the leadership of Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou, relations between China and Taiwan have greatly improved. Both China and Taiwan have been able to benefit from this new era of cooperation. Chinese tourists have been flooding into Taiwan, bolstering the local economy and creating good will between the neighbors. Last year, both governments signed the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, ECFA. The agreement streamlines business between China and Taiwan. As a result of Taiwan's leadership, daily flights between the two countries continue to grow considerably.

We are grateful for President Ma's efforts to create peaceful relations with its neighbors and congratulate Taiwan again on its 100th anniversary.

McLAIN RANCH TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the McLain Ranch of Parlin, Colorado. McLain Ranch was settled by John Jay McLain and his wife Olive Colter in 1908. John Jay settled in Cripple Creek in the late 1800's. A teamster at the time, John mined and conserved his money with the ultimate aspiration to become a rancher.

In the early 1900s, John and his wife moved to Ohio City where he was Superintendent of the Raymond mine. In his free time and as part of his money-saving practices, John panned gold out of the nearby creek.

Finally, in 1908, John had saved enough money to purchase his ranch in Gunnison County. He and his wife saw many years of healthy crops, raising oats, potatoes, horses, chickens, hogs, sheep, and cattle. The couple also raised five children, one of which, Jack, would take over the farm with his wife Louise in 1952. In 1988, Jack and Louise's son David purchased the farm and ever since, he and his wife Ladonna have continued to raise cattle as well as grass pasture and hay.

The McLain Ranch is one of several farms in Colorado that have contributed greatly to our agricultural success over the past century. The Centennial Farms Program is honoring the McLain Ranch, along with seventeen other farms, for its great role in making the State of Colorado the agricultural powerhouse it is today.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the McLain Ranch today on the floor of the House. The ranch is a symbol of the entrepreneurial spirit our Nation has so long enjoyed and exemplified.

ROFEH INTERNATIONAL—NEW
ENGLAND CHASSIDIC CENTER
HONORS THOSE WHO HAVE CON-
TRIBUTED GREATLY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, for some years now I have had the privilege

of sharing with our colleagues information about a very important event that is held annually in Massachusetts by an organization that does great work in making health benefits available to people who need them, in the best possible setting.

ROFEH International was founded by the Boston Rebbe, Grand Rabbi Levi Horowitz, and is now led by his son, Grand Rabbi Naftali Horowitz. Rabbi Levi Horowitz was widely respected for his expertise in the field of medical ethics, and Project ROFEH, founded by him at the New England Chassidic Center, does extraordinary work in making the great healthcare available in the Greater Boston area accessible to people in other places. On November 20th, at their annual dinner, Project ROFEH—New England Chassidic Center will, as it has in the past, honor people who have performed extraordinary service for others.

The ROFEH International Award will go to Dr. Joseph Upton. The Grand Rabbi Levi Horowitz Legacy Award goes to Professor Neil Hecht. And in a special award, the 50th Jubilee of Congregation Bais Pinchas, the Jubilee Award is being given to the Blechner family, the descendants of Sidney and Toby Blechner, who did so much to make this organization the great success it is today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the biographies of Dr. Joseph Upton and Professor Neil Hecht and Sidney and Toby Blechner be printed here, along with the explanation from Grand Rabbi Horowitz of the Jubilee Award to the Blechner family.

DR. JOSEPH UPTON

With a broad background in surgical training Dr. Upton was originally recruited by Joseph Murray to be the first designated hand and microsurgeon in the Longwood teaching hospitals. During the past 34 years his practice has been focused on clinical surgery, education and clinical research. His large practice draws patients from well beyond all regions of the United States and he is known nationally and internationally as a reconstructive surgeon with expertise in upper limb surgery and microsurgery and excels in the evaluation, planning and technical expertise of difficult problems.

Dr. Upton was one of the original plastic surgeons who ushered in the advent of free tissue transfers and limb reattachment surgery in the 1980's. He is known for taking a difficult problem and finding a better, easier solution. Many of the first transfers in this region of the country, in fact, the world were performed by Dr. Upton in the 1980's.

During his few decades on staff he was an active participant in the gross anatomy course at the Harvard Medical School. Dr. Upton continues to perform many flesh dissections and teaches yearly flap dissection courses. He has always been eager to take new and some old technologies directly to patient care. In the operating room he is known for his innovative approaches, which incorporate old and new ideas with new technologies.

As an educator he has functioned at many levels in his daily routines and usually has a medical student, resident and clinical fellow in attendance. All participate as he can teach at all levels. His microvascular/hand fellowship program is based at BIDMC within the Department of Orthopedics and the Division of Plastic Surgery. He has given lectures, keynote addresses, instructional courses and completed many visiting professorships nationally and internationally. Original papers in peer-reviewed journals are evidence of his scholarship. More detailed descriptions of many of these procedures are

found in the textbooks or invited discussions in peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Upton's research has been almost entirely clinical and he rarely describes a new procedure without medium or long-term outcomes. At the Boston Children's Hospital and Shriners Burns Hospital he has accumulated the largest experience with congenital problems in the world. His collection of hand models of congenital malformations is unique. He has had an exhibit in the Boston Museum of Science for 30 years. He was an active participant in the Joseph Vacanti Tissue Engineering lab for 13 years and worked on cartilage and skeletal constructs and prior to this worked in the Folkman Laboratory at The Children's Hospital.

PROFESSOR NEIL S. HECHT

Neil Hecht is professor of law and Founding Director of the Institute of Jewish Law at Boston University School of Law, where he has taught for almost 50 years. He received Rabbinical Ordination from Yeshiva University, a Juris Doctor from Yale Law School and a research doctorate from Columbia University School of Law.

In 1980 Professor Hecht fulfilled his lifelong dream of introducing Jewish law into the curriculum of a major American law school. Through his efforts, Jewish law is now taught in over thirty law schools, and he was instrumental in creating a permanent Jewish Law Section in the Association of American Law Schools. Moreover, its successful reception at BU Law School led to his founding of The Institute of Jewish Law in 1983, which was established for the purpose of publishing treatises, monographs, and teaching materials. Under its auspices, he has written or edited 36 volumes to date. Among these works are Jewish Jurisprudence (a two-volume commentary on Choshen Mishpat, Jewish Civil Law, which contains the only preface ever written by Rabbi Joseph Solovetchik, zt'l), The Jewish Law Annual, and Controversy and Dialogue in Halachik Sources (a four-volume work in Hebrew and English exploring the nature of controversy and authority, machloket, in Jewish law).

From 1985 to 1986, Professor Hecht served as the Visiting Gruss Professor of Talmudic Civil Law at New York University School of Law. In the 1990s, he also served as co-director of the Joint Project in Jewish Legal Bioethics, a collaborative initiative of the Institute of Jewish Law and Boston University's Schools of Medicine and Public Health. His many professional and public service activities include serving as a founding director on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, chairing the Jewish Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools, and becoming an elected member of the American Law Institute.

Among other honors, he was recognized by the Ashmolean Museum of Oxford University, by Boston University School of Law where he received the Silver Shingle Award for distinguished service and the Melton Award for Teaching Excellence, and by Yeshiva University which awarded him the Bernard Revel Memorial Award for his contributions in the field of Jewish legal scholarship.

The relationship between the Hechts and the Rebbe's family dates back to the early part of the 20th Century. Professor Hecht's great-grandfather was a close friend and strong supporter of the Rebbe's grandfather, Grand Rabbi Pinchus Dovid Horowitz, zt'l, when the latter lived in Brooklyn.

SIDNEY AND TOBY (THURM) BLECHNER A'H
EPTOMIZED WHAT GIVING OF SELF TO COMMUNITY MEANS

"V'kol mi she'oskim b'tzarchei tzibur
be'emunah"

Toby, daughter of Menachem Mendel Thurm, founder of World Cheese Company, the first kosher cheese company in the USA, came to America from Germany. Sidney, fortunately and with the hashgacha pratis of God, survived six years in concentration camps and arrived in New York in 1947 where he met his beloved partner to be of 59 years. They married on Lag B'omer 1948, and soon settled in the Roxbury section of Boston.

Though having gone through the fires of Europe, this "ood mootzal may'aish" together with his eishet chayil decided to look only forward and rebuild what their families and communities lost in Europe. They started to build a family and Sidney became successful in the lighting industry. His honesty and integrity were admired by all he came into contact with, Jew and non-Jew alike. Toby, meanwhile, worked tirelessly with the fledgling Roxbury community to build up religious Jewish institutions. Both became active in the Young Israel of Greater Boston, Congregation Beth Pinchas of Roxbury, Maimonides School, and New England Lubavitch Yeshiva. When the Jewish community migrated to Brookline, Sidney made himself and his resources available to help with lighting up the makom Tefilah or makom Limud Torah of many institutions that moved to Brookline.

At the same time, the Blechner family became very close to the Bostoner Rebbe Z'L and Rebbetzin A'H while sharing their philanthropic efforts among CJP, Young Israel of Brookline, Daughters of Israel, Religious Zionists of America, Yeshiva University, Talner Congregation, B'nai Brith, Israel Bonds, and many "matan b'seser" recipients. But it was the special charisma and charm of the Bostoner Rebbe Z'L and his Rebbetzin A'H that attracted Sidney and Toby to daven at the Rebbe's shul. Toby had a special seat next to the Rebbetzin and Sidney especially enjoyed the Rebbe's nusach and warmth on the Yamim Noara'im. They became active supporters of ROFEH as well as the New England Chassidic Center where Sidney was honored as "Man of the Year". Instead of plaques on his office wall, Sidney preferred simple thank you letters as appreciation for the tzedakah and chessed that he and Toby were able to provide to others.

It takes a lot of hakarat hatov for people in today's generation to think back to those who built up a minuscule Torah community of Boston in the 50's to what is has become today for all newcomers to benefit from.

Sidney and Toby Blechner were the patriarch and matriarch of a beautiful family of 4 children, 18 grandchildren who are Roshei yeshiva dedicated to teaching Torah in their communities, professionals in finance, law, education, computers, graphic design and who serve in the Israeli army.

It is therefore most fitting to bestow the "Congregation Bais Pinchas Jubilee Award" in their memory.

THIS YEAR WE CELEBRATE THE 50TH JUBILEE OF CONGREGATION BAIS PINCHAS IN BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

Receiving the Jubilee Award on behalf of their parents, the Blechner family

It is important for people in today's generation to recognizing and appreciate the good done by those who built up a community of Boston in the 50's to what is has become today for all newcomers to benefit from. Mr. and Mrs. Blechner were dedicated their time and efforts in seeing to it that the Boston community should be successful and

thrive. Sidney and Toby Blechner were the patriarch and matriarch who helped to build and beautify the Boston community, of a beautiful family of 4 children, 18 grandchildren who are to teaching in their communities, professionals in finance, law, education, computers, graphic design and who serve in the Israeli army.

It is therefore most fitting to bestow the "Congregation Bais Pinchas Jubilee Award" in their memory.

Sincerely,
GRAND RABBI NAFTALI Y. HOROWITZ,
Bostoner Rebbe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 11, 2011 I voted "no" on House resolution 425, I intended to vote "yes."

VALENTINE RANCH TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Valentine Ranch of Aguilar, Colorado. The ranch was founded in 1908 by Italian immigrant Giovanni Leopoldo Valentini. Valentini was born in Austria in 1869 and immigrated to the United States in 1887, acquiring work at the Engleville Mine in Colorado. Soon thereafter, he changed his name to John Lee Valentine. He married Rachale Conter and the couple had six children.

Over the years, John worked many unique jobs, including being a baker and a saloon keeper. In 1907, he purchased a ranch in Los Animas County. John and his wife lived happily the rest of their lives at the ranch. After John's passing in 1947 and Rachale's in 1950, Gus and June Valentine inherited the ranch and also raised children of their own.

Gus passed away in 1987, but June still resides at the ranch with her son Dan and his wife Sandi. The family continues to enjoy sustained success with their crops and cattle. The Centennial Farms Program has chosen the Valentine Ranch as one of this year's honorees.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the Valentine Ranch today on the floor of the House. The ranch is a symbol of the entrepreneurial spirit our Nation has so long enjoyed and exemplified.

RECOGNIZING THE McDONALD FAMILY AS THE 2011 WALTON COUNTY OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to recognize the McDonald family for being selected